

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

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JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, SA

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION

1. ONLY AL BILAD GAVE HEADLINE COVERAGE TO SIGNING OF
CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. OTHER
PAPERS RELEGATED STORY TO INNER PAGES.

2. OTHER STORIES GIVEN FRONTPAGE PROMINENCE READ:
SAQQAF (FOLLOWING BEIRUT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FRANJIYYA)
SAYS ARABS WILL RECOVER THEIR RIGHTS WHETHER THE TIME
IS LONG OR SHORT AND THAT IF ARABS ACHIEVED NOTHING MORE
THAN SHATTERING MYTH OF ISRAELI INVINCIBILITY, THIS WAS
ENOUGH; FAISAL THANKS IVORY COAST FOR SEVERING RELATIONS
WITH ISRAEL AND NOTES COLLECTIVE SUPPORT AFRICAN STATES
AGAINST ISRAELI AGGRESSION WILL HAVE AN EFFECTIVE INFLUENCE
ON DEVELOPMENTS; AFRICAN BOYCOTT OF ENEMY ONE OF FRUITS
OF FAISAL'S EFFORTS; AFRICA'S STAND GIVES KINGDOM A
GREATER ROLE IN CONTINENT AND WORLD; WALDHEIM SAYS MID-
EAST SITUATION CONTINUES TO BE GRAVE AND THAT GREAT
EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO ACHIEVE A JUST SOLUTION; ARAB
SUMMIT CONFERENCE TO PRECEDE PEACE CONFERENCE WHICH
NEWS REPORTS FROM BEIRUT INDICATE WILL BE HELD IN GENEVA
NEXT MONTH.

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3. AL BILAD CARRIED ONLY SIGNIFICANT COMMENTARY TODAY ADDRESSING CONTROVERSY IN ISRAEL OVER LACK ISRAELI PREPAREDNESS FOR LATEST ARAB-ISRAEL WAR. COLUMNIST OPINED: "ISRAEL IS STILL VERY SENSITIVE IN REGARD TO HER MILITARY SITUATION AND IS STILL CONSIDERING THE KEY TO HER EXISTENCE IS THE ATTAINMENT OF HIGH MILITARY POWER AT A TIME WHEN ISRAEL LEADERS TALKS ABOUT PEACE AND SIGN ACCORDS THAT OPEN THE DOOR FOR POSSIBLE PEACE. WE ARE NOT DEMANDING ISRAEL NOT BE MILITARYLY PREPARED, BUT WE ARE CONCERNED TO SEE THAT ISRAEL IS STILL DISREGARDING THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLES AND IS STILL INSISTING THAT SHE MAINTAIN A MILITARY POWER THAT IS EQUIVALENT TO ALL ARAB STATES' MILITARY POWER COMBINED, IF NOT MORE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE IS AS SMALL AS A DROP OF WATER IN THE SEA OF THE ARAB WORLD. ISRAEL'S INTENTION TO BE IN SUCH A UNIQUE POSITION IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF NAZI GERMANY WHICH INSISTED TO HAVE A POWER THAT EXCEEDS THE POWERS OF ALL OTHER STATES IN THE WORLD. WHAT WE CAN CONCLUDE FROM THIS ISRAELI PSYCHOLOGY IS THAT ISRAEL IS PREPARING HERSELF FOR FURTHER WARS, AND THAT SHE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN PEACE. WHAT MUST BE SAID TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED IN ESTABLISHING A REAL PEACE IN THE AREA IS TO SECURE FIRST THE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND THEN TO ADVISE ISRAEL TO BEHAVE ACCORDING TO HER SIZE."

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